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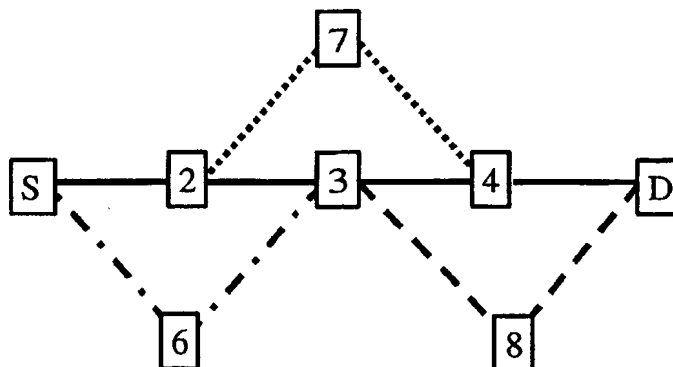
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(54) Title: COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM



Worker ————  
Detour 10 - - - - -  
Detour 12 .....  
Detour 14 - - - - -

(57) Abstract: A data communications system with a plurality of nodes connected by a plurality of links; in which a subset of the links and nodes form a worker path for carrying worker data through the communication system and a further subset of links and nodes provides a protection path for carrying other data in the absence of a fault, in the worker path and for providing an alternative path for the worker data in the event of a fault in the worker path; in which the alternative path is predetermined by protection means prior to the detection of a fault in the worker path.